

MARINE

HAWAII

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1/3 departs to Gulf with MEU

K-Bay’s Battalion Landing Team receives orders

Okinawa Consolidated Public Affairs Office
MCB Camp Butler

WHITE BEACH, OKINAWA, Japan — The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, with approximately 2,000 Marines and Sailors, recently departed Okinawa for the Middle East to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 31st MEU was issued deployment orders from the U.S. Secretary of Defense nearly a month earlier than its routine fall deployment, according to 1st Lt. Tryiakas W. Brown, public affairs officer with the 31st MEU.

“Morale is high, and the Marines have been waiting to participate in the global war on terrorism for quite a long time,” said Maj. A.J. Kostic, executive officer, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, the 31st MEU’s ground combat element. “[Our] unit is highly trained and ready for any mission that is handed to us.”

The 31st MEU, one of seven such combined-arms, Marine air-ground task forces, is the only MEU permanently forward-deployed. Amphibious in nature and designed for joint operations

and crisis response, the MEU is capable of performing numerous, concurrent, ship-to-shore, conventional and select-maritime special-operations missions.

This deployment is part of the Marine Corps’ commitment to security and stability around the world, according to Brown.

The 31st MEU is made up of: a command element based in Okinawa; a ground combat element, Battalion Landing Team 1/3 from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; an aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 from Okinawa; and a combat service support element, MEU Service Support Group-31, also based in Okinawa.

The Marines of 1/3 have prepared to attach to the 31st MEU since January. One of the key

training events was a Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area where Marines and Sailors with 1/3 honed various combat-related skills, according to Kostic.

“We’ve been doing a lot of cross training,” said Lance Cpl. Doug D. Kieler, an assaultman with Weapons Company, BLT 1/3. “We [as assaultmen] specialize in demolitions, but [this year] we’ve been [training in the areas of] machine guns, the [tube launched, optically tracked, wire guided missile weapon system], convoy security and battlefield first aid. We’ve been prepped for missions we may see in Iraq.”

The cross training was important as MEUs are typically tasked with amphibious raids,

See MEU, A-7

Verizon misleads in family housing letter

Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Ops/Training Chief

Family housing residents may have recently received a misleading letter from Verizon in reference to indoor landline telephone service maintenance aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

In response, the Family Housing Department said this letter is misleading and incorrect.

According to the letter: “due to recent changes, the Military Family Housing Office will no longer be paying for repair charges associated with their telephones inside wiring maintenance.”

This letter also stated effective Sept. 17, Verizon will bill the primary account holder for any repair services requested utilizing the time and material rates currently in effect. The current standard repair rate is \$91 per half-hour, and residents would be billed for a minimum of a half-hour. All time beyond this first half-hour minimum would be charged at \$46 per half-hour interval or any portion thereof.

“The Family Housing Department will continue to pro-

See VERIZON, A-7

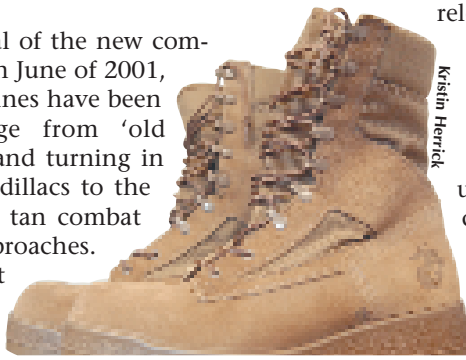
‘Cadillacs’ need to head to the closet

Uniform requirements to change as of Oct. 1

Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

Since the approval of the new combat utility uniform in June of 2001, more and more Marines have been making the change from ‘old school’ to ‘digital,’ and turning in their trusty black cadillacs to the still-too-hard-to-find tan combat boots as October approaches.

By the first of next month, all Marines are required to have at least one set of Marine Pattern woodland camouflage utilities as well as a pair of hot-weather tan boots, according to Marine Administrative message 310/03. The required number of utilities will increase by one per year until Oct. 1, 2006.



At the beginning of next month, all Marines are required to own at least one pair of hot-weather tan combat boots.

The question most Marines seem to be asking is, “can I still wear my old cammies?” The answer, for those devil dogs who still love to starch and press their woodlands, is “Yes, depending on your command.”

According to ALMAR 004/04, released by Headquarters Marine Corps in January, commanders may designate the appropriate uniform of the day to promote uniformity at their command. After the recent change of command here, for instance, Headquarters Battalion and Marine Corps Air Facility Marines were recently directed that the desert MARPAT uniform will be worn only on Wednesdays starting Oct. 1, and green woodland MARPAT as the uniform

See UNIFORM, A-4

When it must be destroyed ...



Cpl. Defonsio Daniels, motor transport operator for Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, crimps a blasting cap during Emergency Destruct Training at the range here, Aug. 26. The training brought together Marines from Bravo Battery, 1/12 and Base Ordnance, Headquarters Battalion to prepare for a situation in which ammunition supplies are taken by the enemy. See A-3 for the whole story.

DoD outlines recovery work

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The thousands of Americans who put themselves in harm’s way in dangerous and inhospitable environments as members of the armed forces and various government agencies “must be confident that should something happen to them in the course of their service, they

will not be abandoned,” DoD’s senior official for prisoner of war/missing personnel affairs said here today.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry D. Jennings praised the efforts of the more than 325 men and women in the audience at the DoD Worldwide Personnel Recovery Conference, saying

See RECOVERY, A-7

3/3 trains for all conditions at CAX

‘America’s Battalion’ get training in more realistic conditions

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Media Chief

As preparation for a possible future deployment to Afghanistan, Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, traveled to Twentynine Palms, Calif., for a Combined Arms Training Exercise during the month of September.

During their stay, the Marines

from “America’s Battalion” will train using the integration of air and ground elements along with live-fire exercises.

Although the Marines train numerous times every year with similar exercises at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii, Twentynine Palms will be more realistic as the weather there is similar to what they could potentially experience in the future, said Cpl. Carlos R. Johnson, operations noncommissioned officer for 3rd Marine

Regiment.

“It gets so hot out there during the day,” said Johnson. “It can be 115 degrees during the day, but then drop quickly to freezing temperatures at night. It’s the same way over in the desert.”

Upon finishing their training in Twentynine Palms, the Marines will move on to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif. This post is one

See 3/3, A-4



NEWS BRIEFS

HSL-37 to Change Command

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 37 will hold a change of command ceremony Thursday at 10 a.m. Navy Commander Pat Molena will relieve Navy Commander David Fisher as commanding officer. Navy Commander Neil Karnes will assume duties as executive officer.

H-3 Lane Closures

The Honolulu bound lanes of the H-3 freeway will be closed to all vehicular traffic Sept. 11 – 12, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. for routine tunnel maintenance.

Also, H-3 lanes, Kaneohe bound will be closed Sept. 25 – 26, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Kailua Road Construction

There will be roadwork in the Kailua area on Mokapu Road/Mokapu Boulevard from Kalaheo Ave. to the entrance of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The work hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Motorists are advised to use alternate routes, allow extra time while driving through work areas, and observe all traffic controls. For more information, call 547-7722.

Base Road Closure

A lane closure at the corner of Selden St. and Craig Ave. to install a duct bank is scheduled from Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mass Casualty Exercise

MCBH 1st Responders will be conducting a mass casualty exercise near the flight line Sept. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 257-8845.

Register to vote

Below is a list of helpful Web sites providing information about voting:

- www.manpower.usmc.mil, select Personal and Family Readiness, then select voting.
- www.fvap.gov
- www.vote-smart.org
- www.republicansabroad.org
- www.democratsabroad.org
- www.fvap.gov/comm/communicating.html
- www.fvap.gov/pubs/howtoinfo.html
- www.fvap.gov/pubs/faq.html

O'Club Parking Reserved for Patrons Only

The parking area for The Officers' Club aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is to be used only by patrons of the club while visiting the facility.

Residents of the Bachelor Officer Quarters must use the BOQ parking area, which is provided on the opposite side of the BOQ from The O'Club.

Noise Prohibited on Mokapu Stretch

In consideration for the neighbors of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, formations running near the back gate or on the trail around the Nuupia Ponds are prohibited from chanting or making excessive noise.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major
Public Affairs Officer
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Press Chief
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Sports Editor
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
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Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Maj. Patricia Johnson
Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
Sgt. Joseph Lee
Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Cpl. Monroe E. Seigle
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
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Susana Choy
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Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

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E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

Parents see improvements

Service members and educators brainstorm at 3rd annual JVEF meeting

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Improvements to the Hawaii Public School System over the last two years were discussed Aug. 24 during the third annual meeting of the Joint Venture Education Forum, held at the Hickam Air Force Enlisted Club.

The JVEF is a cooperative venture between the U.S. Pacific Command military community and the Hawaii Department of Education that assists active military participation in Hawaii Public Education. The forum's goal is to advance the military community's responsibility in the pursuit of a quality education for Hawaii's public school students.

The forum also assists schools in understanding the needs of military families, and the support required for issues such as transitioning, deployments, and other military hardships.

"I believe that the Joint Venture Education Forum is really winning at everything they do," said Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander, U.S. Pacific Command. "We know that we are improving in almost every aspect of education and we know what our problem areas are."

"I truly believe that the glass is half full and we have been successful so far — we are making improvements," Fargo continued.

According to the 2004 U.S. Pacific Command School Study Survey, military families have seen consistent improvements for most of the issues facing Hawaii public schools over the last three years, but they believe more improvements are needed.

Parents showed the majority of their concern for resources and facilities, especially in the quantity of textbooks and facilities



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, congratulates a Joint Venture Education Forum outstanding volunteer and presents her with the association's certificate of appreciation for all of her volunteer efforts over the past year.

maintenance. Survey results also showed a need for improvement in student discipline and respect.

Compared to the 2003 survey, there was a 15 percent drop in positive responses by parents regarding student respect. Although, students in fifth through eighth grades showed an improvement of 14 percent, grades 9 – 12 still had a 1 percent drop.

The only issue that showed clear deterioration compared to its improvement over the last two years was administrator's care, including addressing disciplinary issues in a fair and timely manner. Both student and parent responses showed a seven to eight percent drop in approval ratings compared to 2003.

Despite the decline in other issues, steady improvements are evident in student education. Parents and children both reported positive responses for the students ability to learn in school as well as the accessibility of

computers. Military families also agreed their students are receiving more help from staff, better care from teachers and more feedback on their children's progress.

According to the JVEF annual report, while the concerns of military families are definite calls for continued efforts, the survey clearly indicated the perceptions of both parents and students continue toward being more positive.

"This is very exciting and very necessary," said Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, who also attended the annual meeting. "I want our service and family members to know that we are putting in every effort to improve their children's education."

"It is very encouraging to see the improvements made in just the past three years," continued Trautman. "We will continue, if not increase, the energy put into this program."

No comment please, for OpSec's sake

Master Gunnery Sgt. Billy D. Stewart
Commentary

I can remember sitting at my desk at the St. Agnes Catholic School during my sixth grade year of elementary school with my ears wide open. My teacher, Sister Mary Elene, a Dominican Nun was somewhat of a "history buff" and often relayed stories that were told by her family from when they served during World War II in Europe. Little did I know many years later the particular story I would hear that day would take on a literal meaning after I had earned the title of Marine.

With emotion and intensity, Sister Mary Elene described a unit stationed on the European front. The unit had successfully hidden themselves and diverted all attention from the enemy. The soldiers had been briefed earlier that personal discipline was paramount to their very survival. During that night, a nervous soldier could no longer curb his temptation and thought there would be no harm in taking a few puffs from a cigarette to calm his jittering nerves. The night was cool and pitch black as the young soldier struck a match to light a weather beaten cigarette that was standard issue in his sea rations. It would be his last cigarette. Seconds later, enemy artillery, and machine gun fire lit up the black sky and immediately directed their fire onto the soldiers' unit. They were sitting ducks with nowhere to retreat except into the hands of incoming shells, machine gun fire, or small arms and bayonets. The enemy

shortly followed on foot and finished the bloody task unfolded that night. The soldier's glowing cigarette represented the final piece of an intelligence puzzle that wiped out his entire unit. Who would have ever known such a small mistake would cause such a tragedy; the young soldier probably couldn't have fathomed his small, yet critical role in the attack that night. Although not as serious on the surface, a very real irony exists in cities and towns all over the United States that may have a negative effect on our very secured position; the land of the free, America. The enemy is two of our own, the media and the American people's inability to exercise operational security.

Call them what you want; local newspapers, Internet news groups, your local television station, e-mail traffic, or even worse, the town crier. They all know too much about the current commitments, movement and strengths of our military units. To make it even worse, they are continually letting everyone else know as well. I have read articles from undisclosed newspapers that

See *SECURITY*, A-6

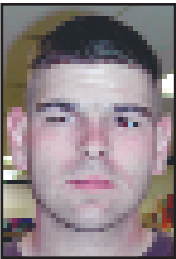
Word on the street

What are you doing over the Labor Day weekend?



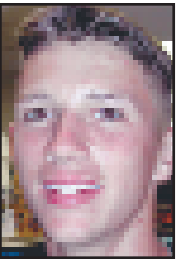
Pfc. Robert Eichelberger
Ammo technician
Supply Co., CSSG-3

"I was thinking about trying cliff diving."



Lance Cpl. Brandon D. Nelson
Motor transport operator
Transportation Support Co., CSSG-3

"I am actually working all weekend."



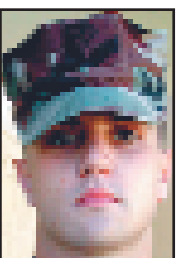
Pfc. Joshua W. Payne
Heavy equipment mechanic
Maintenance Co., CSSG-3

"I will be going to the beach a lot."



Gunnery Sgt. Doug Peercy
Company gunnery sergeant
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

"I'll be going to the Bo Irvine comedy show Saturday night at the staff club."



Pfc. Bryan Tankersley
Machinegunner
Golf Co., 2/3

"I'll be heading home to Michigan since I am getting out of the Marine Corps."

MyPay e-mail PINs available to Sailors

American Forces Press Service
Press Release

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sailors are now able to receive personal identification numbers for myPay, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's system to manage individual pay accounts, at their official Navy e-mail account.

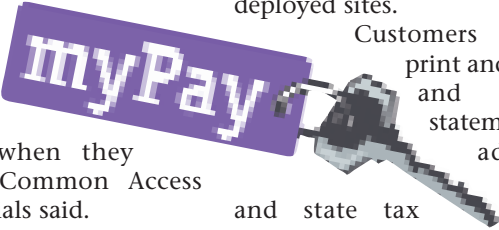
Within minutes of requesting a new or updated PIN on the myPay Web site, members can expect to receive the PIN at their official Navy e-mail address if it was provided when they received their Common Access Card, DFAS officials said.

MyPay, an Internet/Web-based and interactive voice response system, allows customers to access and control their pay information. MyPay is available to all military

members, military retirees and annuitants, and Defense and Energy department civilian employees.

The e-mail PIN delivery process is a simpler, faster alternative to the direct mail and in-person request methods previously available, officials said. This capability is especially timely as more commanders, members and employees are realizing the benefits of accessing myPay from remote and deployed sites.

Customers can view, print and save leave and earnings statements, make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings, update bank accounts and electronic transfers, and change address information, all online by accessing myPay.



DUIs are career killers

Congratulations MCB Hawaii.

No DUIs were reported for the week of Aug. 23 – 29.



Cpl. John Fury, ammunition technician for base ordnance, Headquarters Battalion, crimps a blasting cap during Emergency Destruct Training at the Kaneohe Bay range, Aug. 26.



Lance Cpl. Roberto J. Mundo, ammunition technician for base ordnance, Headquarters Battalion, waits to receive further instruction during training for the possibility that ammunition supplies are overrun by enemy forces.

Full blast

Marines train in ammunition destruction

**Story and Photos By
Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**
Media Chief

Marines from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, along with Base Ordnance, Headquarters Battalion, took part in Emergency Destruct Training here on K-Bay range, Aug. 26.

The training is designed to teach Marines to destroy ammunition if needed in combat, said Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Deering, records chief and ammunition technician for Headquarters Bn.

"If in the field, the ammunition supply point gets overrun by the enemy, the Marines need the capability to destroy it," said Deering. "If they don't, that ammo will just end up being used against them."

This is the first time in approximately 10 months the training has been able to take place due to weather conditions, said Deering.

"We like to get a class in every six months or so, but it wasn't possible with the range

being so dry and the potential fire hazards," said Deering. "We would like to get the training going at least every six months again."

During the day, Marines set off TNT and blocks of C-4 to practice their new, or for some, very familiar skills. The ammunition was Grade 3, which means it had been expired or damaged before use.

"We do this for our job, but it was great to get a refresher," said Lance Cpl. Roberto Mundo, and ammunition technician for HQBN. "It makes you realize how important this training is, and I love being able to get out there and just blow things up."

The classes are kept small to ensure that everyone is monitored and being kept safe, said Deering.

"There is a lot going on out there and these explosives can be extremely

dangerous," said Deering. "We don't want anybody getting ahead of themselves to the point where something could go very wrong."

Throughout the day, the Marines were attentive and alert while taking part in the training, said Deering.

"They did excellent and all took really well to the hands-on training they did," said Deering. "It was so important for the ammunition technicians to get out here to remind them what they're dealing with. If you work with it every day you tend to get complacent. They showed confidence and knew what to do."

"It's fun to get out there and participate in something like this," said Mundo. "The better part of it though is realizing that this is your job."

The EDT is available for any ammunition technicians on base and can be set up through an ammunition supply point on base.

"When you deal with ammunition like this on a day-to-day basis there is a certain respect you should have," said Deering. "The Marines who come out to this training are reminded of that."



Cpl. Defonso Daniels examines the blasting cap used in Emergency Destruct Training. The training brought 1/12 and Headquarters Battalion Marines together on the range.

Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Deering (left) instructs Lance Cpl. Roberto J. Mundo, both ammunition technicians for base ordnance, Headquarters Battalion, on detonating C4 explosives, used to destroy ammunition.



Fall favorites win for Chef of the Quarter

**Story and Photos By
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**
Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors from MCB Kaneohe Bay took great pride in displaying an array of mouth-watering dishes at the Chef of the Quarter competition hosted at Anderson Chow Hall Wednesday.

Although a lot of time and effort went into creating each dish, only one participant could be awarded as the Chef of the Quarter. This quarter's winner was Lance Cpl. King Solomon L. Flowers, a food service specialist with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. This was his fourth competition and second win in three years.

"It was the up-most feeling knowing I had the ability to out-due my fellow peers in cooking," said Flowers, a Claridon, Jamaica native. "I put a lot of time into the meal and I was happy to win."

The winning main dish for this quarter's Chef of the Quarter contest was a traditional oven-roasted turkey.



The competition is judged not only from the taste of the dishes that are prepared, but participants must also pass a verbal test to make it into the competition as well as preparing a creative display to accompany their entrees.

Flowers chose oven-roasted turkey as his main dish, as he wanted to create a Thanksgiving Day meal theme. The other side dishes consisted of a family baked ham, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, black-eyed peas with ham hocks and sherry pound cake.

"If you cook something that is meaningful," Flowers explained, "it is a good meal."

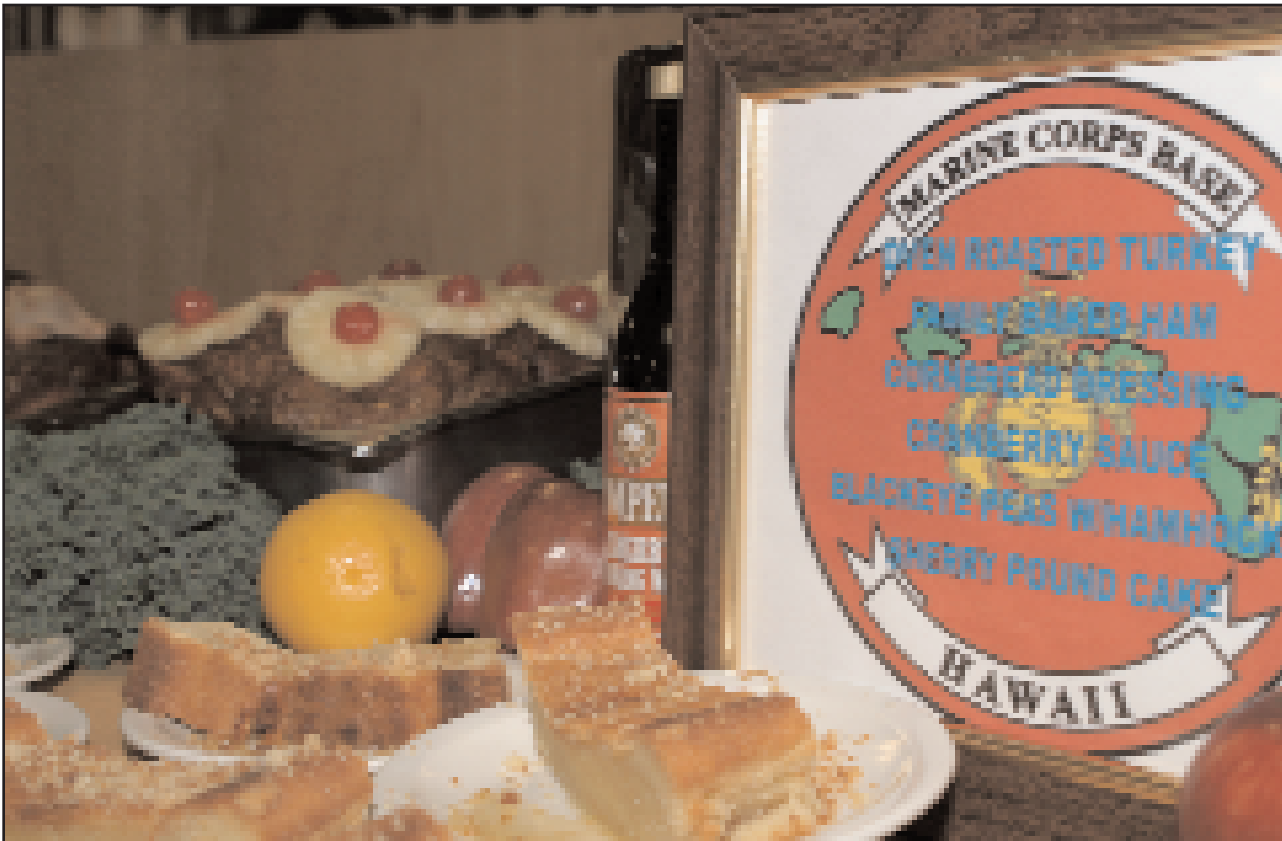
According to Flowers, Thanksgiving is a time to give to others and share in the meaningful things that you have. It is a time for thanks and that inspired him to create his

See CHEF, A-7



Left — Fruits and vegetables garnish Lance Cpl. Flowers' display.

Below — Lance Cpl. King Solomon L. Flowers, a food service specialist with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and winner of Wednesday's Chef of the Quarter contest, displayed his dishes for the judges. The winning eats included oven-roasted turkey, family baked ham, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, black-eyed peas with ham hocks and sherry pound cake.



Lance Cpl. Damein Young (left), Jackson, Miss. native and messman with 3/3, takes a few moments to relax and listen to some music as Sgt. Shelvin Jackson (far right), messman with 3/3 and native of Port Authur, Texas, passes out Meals Ready to Eat.

3/3, From A-1

of the most isolated in the Marine Corps and the training emphasizes the development of both individual and unit mountain skills with the primary emphasis on enhancing the overall combat capability of the unit.

"It's basically the same sort of training that we do when we go to PTA," said Johnson. "The main thing for the Marines to get used to and be forced to deal with is the harsh weather conditions."

Once training wraps up, Marines will return to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, sometime in early October and will await any future deployments.

"The Marines are excited about this opportunity," said Johnson. "They've waited a long time for this chance."



Old-style woodland cammies will be phased out by October 2006, and replaced by the new digital camouflage utilities.

UNIFORM: Commander's choice

From A-1

of the day the rest of the work week.

Marines in other commands may continue to wear the old-style woodland cammies, at their commander's discretion, until they are no longer serviceable, or are phased out. The date for the full phase out of old-style cammies is currently October 2006.

As for your combat boots, put your "cadillacs" away. As of next month, they're no longer authorized, whether you were issued them or not. The one exception is black safety boots.

For more information, refer to ALMAR 028/02, ALMAR 004/04 and MARADMIN 310/03.

Air mail special delivery

Galley becomes delivery room

K-Bay husband and wife physician team aids mother and baby in flight

Bruce Omura
PAO, Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor

When Lt. Cmdr. Patricia Ko, her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Harry Ko, and family were returning from their vacation to Disneyland, little did they know of the adventure ahead.

The Ko's are family physicians at Branch Medical Clinic, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. About one hour into their flight on June 6, an announcement was heard on the plane's PA system requesting for any medical personnel to help with a passenger. Upon responding to the request, the Ko's were immediately informed by flight personnel one of the passengers felt she was going into labor and was about to deliver a baby.

The passenger, a 29-year-old mother of three, stated she had no prenatal care and thought she might be eight months pregnant, but was not sure. She was returning home to Hawaii with her husband and children.

After the Ko's had calmly assessed the situation, an impromptu delivery area was created on the metal floor of the galley in the back of the Boeing 757 aircraft. Patricia found all the



Sgt. Jerome Edwards

Lt. Cmdr. Patricia Ko, her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Harry Ko, both family physicians at Branch Medical Clinic, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, aided in the delivery of a baby aboard an aircraft after responding to the flight crew's request for medical personnel. The baby, named Skyler, is healthy and doing fine.

blankets she could and laid them on the metal floor of the galley.

"We were making this galley area into a labor and delivery room basically", said Harry.

"We (Ko's and the flight personnel) asked for all the blankets we could get to cover the floor and keep the mother warm," added Patricia.

After taking the expectant mother into the

impromptu patient area, Harry quickly did a physical examination and found the mother-to-be in active labor. Within five minutes, the baby's head was crowning and delivery soon ensued.

"A healthy full term male infant was delivered by normal spontaneous vaginal delivery at 9:44 a.m. at 33,000 feet somewhere over the

Pacific Ocean," said Harry. "They did not have an emergency [obstetrics] kit onboard, so, I improvised with the surgical tools that they did have like a hemostat to clamp off the umbilical cord."

It was fortunate to have a delivery team and pediatric team on the flight to provide care. In addition to the Ko's, there was an obstetrics nurse from Fresno, Calif. and a recovery nurse from Granada Hills, Calif. on board ready to assist. While the OB nurse and Harry concentrated on delivering the infant and taking care of the mother, Patricia and the recovery nurse took care of the resuscitation and care of the infant.

The galley's heater was used to heat blankets to keep the baby dry and warm after it was born.

"Fortunately, everything went well and both mom and baby did very well. Most passengers didn't realize the mother was having a baby till the baby began to cry after I gently rubbed the baby's back," said Patricia.

The flight was diverted back to Los Angeles for the medical emergency and the Ko family all returned home 12 hours after take-off from the original flight. Mother and baby were admitted to a hospital for overnight observation in Los Angeles and flew to Hawaii two weeks later. Harry Ko, who did the actual delivery called it "a textbook delivery" and will never forget the experience that he and his wife had.

And the baby? He was named Skyler after how he was born. Both mother and baby are healthy and doing well.

‘Mighty Mo’ takes a look back



Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur signs the Instrument of Surrender, as Supreme Allied Commander, during the formal surrender ceremonies on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Behind MacArthur are Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and Lt. Gen. A. E. Percival.

Photo Courtesy of the National Archives

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — The world stood by as the Foreign Minister of Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945.

The Nation was tuned into the world broadcast of the event that ended the fighting between Japan and the Allied Nations.

Now, 59 years later, the deck of the ‘Mighty Mo’ was once again filled with spectators to commemorate the end of World War II.

The USS Missouri Memorial Association, a private Hawaii-based non-profit organization, held the annual ceremony, which began at 8:45 a.m., aboard ‘Mighty Mo.’

The ceremony was timed to coincide with the moment representatives of Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender. The signing ceremony started at 9:04 a.m. and completed at 9:22 a.m., according to the Navy’s history Web site, www.history.navy.mil.

The ceremony lasted a little longer than the 18-minute signing, because of all the events planned, and featured patriotic music by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, a parade of colors and a 21-Rifle Salute to honor those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending freedom.

SECURITY, From A-2

turned my stomach with disbelief. The articles looked like make shift unit status reports. By the end of these articles, I knew what units were deployed and to where. More staggering, clear ideas about which units were left behind on the base existed as well. There were also comments from military dependents wanting more media attention given to their family member’s units deployed. Normally, after I pick my jaw off the floor, I usually stagger to the living room and get a sanity check from my spouse, a Marine wife of seventeen years and former Sailor. She confirms I am not hallucinating, and always agrees we have a much bigger issue at hand — homeland security.

Operational Security remains paramount whether at peace or at war, but more so since 9/11. As forces deploy, each unit represents a piece of the puzzle for every terrorist and slimy intelligent agent of our enemy. The battlefield is no longer waged on foreign soil, but in our homeland. While America feeds off freedoms of the press and speech, however, we need to realize that one day our freedom may cause severe grief because of our misuse. Let me present a gross reality to you.

Our military bases represent the hubs of security for our country. In retrospect, giving information about our units deployed, is divulging valuable information about the units left behind defending these bases and American interests. One would think the media would not print such sacred information or flood our televisions with so many details. In the same breath, we cannot totally blame the media because they get their information from someone. It could be a service member or a family member that talks too much. It may be a base employee that says something at dinner in a restaurant that is overheard by a media representative.

Finally, it may be our own units and organizations. Sadly enough, it could be all of the aforementioned looking for five minutes of fame by talking to the media or passing on the latest scoop to his/her friend. Through interviews, email, or conversation, it has to stop.

I have nothing to give you this week but a warning. It may save your life or the lives of your friends and loved ones. You can take it or leave it. Be advised, I have no concern for personal feelings this

week; just the desire that maybe the word will get passed and we can all sleep better at night.

Ponder a few phrases; “loose lips sink ships, pipe down, zip your lips, close your trap, shut your mouth, or just be quiet.” You can pick which phrase works for you. There are only a select few that can make the call

about what needs to be discussed beyond our gates. This rule goes for anyone associated with the military. The best phrase you can use is “no comment” or better yet exercise your freedom of silence. There are several ways of passing the word about our deploying Marines in which do not include the press or media. Most evi-

dent is through the base Public Affairs Officer, Unit Commanding Officers, and their Key Volunteer Networks.

Contrary to popular belief, media or press coverage is not what our country or the Marine Corps needs when engaged in real world operational commitments, and especially

since the changing climate in our homeland since 9/11.

Do not overlook operational security and how small your piece of the puzzle is. All is relevant to the security of America. Let us all take care of each other. Ensure your innocent comments do not transform into a glowing cigarette. Semper Fi.

VERIZON, From A-1

vide inside wire maintenance through our maintenance contractor, Dellew [PEMCO],” said J. O. Park, Family Housing director.

If residents experience telephone service interruptions related to inside wire maintenance, broken receptacles, faceplates or phone jacks, contact Dellew’s (PEMCO) service desk immediately at 254-5585.

However, if residents fail to contact Dellew (PEMCO) and report the problem directly to Verizon, you will be responsible for charges incurred.

“The Family Housing Department takes great measures to ensure we provide exceptional service to our residents living aboard MCB Hawaii,” said Park.

If we can be of further assistance in this matter, contact Andrew Gasper, tenant relations, at 257-2676.

MEU, From A-1

noncombatant evacuations, security operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, direct action, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.

The embarkation process on Okinawa was delayed for two days due to Typhoon Meiji, according to Staff Sgt. Victor M. Olivares, logistics chief, BLT 1/3, who was responsible for loading vehicles and equipment onto USS Essex, a multi-purpose amphibious assault ship serves as a platform for prompt, sustained, ship-to-shore combat operations using various combinations of helicopters, A/V-8B Harrier vertical-short take off and landing jets, and Navy hover-

craft called landing craft air cushioned.

Other ships included in the Essex Amphibious Ready Group transporting the MEU are USS Harpers Ferry and USS Juneau. The USS Harpers Ferry is designed to dock, transport and launch LCACs and other amphibious craft, as well as vehicles with crews and Marines into potential trouble spots around the world. The USS Juneau, like the USS Essex, also conducts ship-to-shore combat operations using various combinations of aircraft and LCACs.

The 31st MEU is expected to return to Okinawa once it completes its mission. MEU deployments typically last from four to seven months.

CHEF, From A-4

Thanksgiving Day meal.

“I cook this every year for Thanksgiving,” he said.

Flowers’ passion for cooking began when he was 13-years-old, growing up in Alabama, where he moved when he was 10.

“I love to eat,” he explained, his reason for cooking originated in his love for food consumption.

“It is also a way for me to get my mind off things, some people write, some people do sports, I cook,” he explained.

Flowers intends to pursue his cooking career and is now attending Leeward Community College to further his education as a food service specialist.



Lance Cpl. King Solomon L. Flowers added a Hawaiian flair to one of his winning dishes, family baked ham.

RECOVERY, From A-1

they make up the backbone of the personnel recovery mission. They do the work to implement the policies and procedures that are set forth by the headquarters staff, he explained.

Jennings then quoted Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz as saying, “The brave men and women who serve today, whether in Afghanistan, northern Iraq, or other theaters for the war on terrorism, can do so with the full confidence that if they are captured, become missing, or fall in battle, this nation will spare no effort to bring them home. This is our solemn pledge; however long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost.”

Jennings said Wolfowitz’s remarks guide his office’s work in ensuring that it maintains “a powerful and credible capability to recover our isolated personnel.” And he cautioned “that we don’t shrink from using that capability and everything else within our power to recover and account for our.”

The three-day conclave highlights the need to transform the Defense Department’s personnel recovery efforts to address the challenges of the 21st century battle space, Jennings noted.

“Today, our military forces are facing new and often unexpected dangers,” he said. Instead of the traditional threats of isolation occurring as a result of aircraft shoot-downs or ground engagements, the primary risk of isolation in Iraq now comes from kidnappings and hostage taking, he noted.

“The enemy in today’s battlespace has found new targets,” said the former Marine who served as an intelligence officer with the CIA in Southeast Asia. “Whereas we have traditionally been concerned with recovering our uniformed personnel, we are now faced with an environment where the primary targets are the ‘soft’ targets — the untrained and unprepared civilians (such as) DoD contractors, U.S. government civilians, journalists, humanitarian workers and others unprepared for isolation.”

U.S. combatants have to adapt to tougher and different environments, he added.

“The battlefields our forces are encountering today are not the plains and forests of Germany, or even the sprawling deserts of the Middle East,” he said. “We’re finding ourselves embroiled in the urban battlefield of the villages, towns and cities of Iraq — a battlefield, that for now, has certainly tilted the advantages in favor of the insurgent.

“We are also faced with our isolated personnel being placed on the public stage in an effort to break America’s will to persevere in ridding Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations of the terrorist threat,” said the former deputy directory of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. “We have even seen the unfortunate results of this tactic with some of our friends abandoning the coalition due to the threats to their citizens held hostage,” Jennings said.

“Tougher threats, new targets, and dynamic operational environments necessitate an all-encompassing examination of how the department

must transform the personnel recovery mission to meet the challenges that lay ahead.”

He noted that in the past, the annual conference was used partly to highlight successes in personnel recovery and to provide a vision and direction for the future. “We have accomplished much, but I want to use my time this morning to focus on the future — to challenge you to accomplish even more,” Jennings told the audience.

Turning his attention to transformation, Jennings quoted Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld as saying, “We need every nickel, we need every innovation, every good idea to strengthen and transform our military. A new idea overlooked might well be the next threat overlooked. If we do not fix what is broken and encourage what is good and what works, if we do not transform, our enemies will surely find new ways to attack us.”

Jennings said transforming personnel recovery functions includes:

- Making personnel recovery a

coherently interoperable function between the services, interagency partners, allies and coalition partners;

- Ensuring that transformed personnel-recovery specialists are equipped with state-of-the-art technology that operates seamlessly from survivor, to recovery force, to command and control — regardless of the service, interagency partner or ally;
- Making sure that recovery forces train individually, jointly, in a combined environment, and with interagency partners to ensure compatibility and commonality in tactics, techniques and procedures;
- Requiring that all personnel are trained and prepared in proportion to their risk of capture to face the rigors of capture and, as a result, return home safely and with honor; and
- Ensuring that a transformed personnel-recovery function is one in which personnel-recovery considerations are planned for and resourced prior to isolating events and not in reaction to events on the battlefield.

“We must rise to the challenges we

face in personnel recovery so that we can be assured of having the capabilities we need for successful recovery in the future; we must keep our solemn pledge to our warfighters,” Jennings told the gathering.

Noting that the entire Bush administration is committed to recovering isolated Americans, Jennings again quoted Rumsfeld: “We will leave no one behind in Iraq or any of those missing from World War II, Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War or other past conflicts.”

Jennings said the National Security Presidential Directive, which is near completion, will help by directing the full integration of “U.S. diplomatic, civil, and military personnel recovery capabilities into a national architecture to ensure successful outcomes for personnel-recovery events.”

The directive also requires all government agencies to participate in personnel-recovery planning consistent with their capabilities, and focuses planning efforts on joint, interagency, and coalition opera-

tions, rather than just on component operations, Jennings said.

Jennings challenged the attendees to get involved in the process and provide inputs to their service and combatant command headquarters. “We don’t have a corner on the market for good ideas or perfect guidance,” he told the audience.

DoD has gotten better over the past eight years in personnel-recovery planning and execution, Jennings noted. “Though it sounds basic, planning before acting is fundamental to the successful employment of our personnel recovery capabilities,” he said. “We’re improving how we approach recovery today, vice pre-Desert Storm only 13 years ago.”

But he added that while personnel recovery is no longer just a pick-up game, and has even become carefully scripted, resourced and proactive, and there’s still more work to do. “As we progress deeper and deeper into the war on terrorism, our recovery needs are becoming more dependent on nonconventional means,” Jennings said.